THE

CONDUCT

OF A

NOBLE LORD

SCRUTINIZED.

[L^d George Sackville.]

By a VOLUNTEER who was near his Perſon from the 28th of July, to the 2d of Auguſt, 1759.

VENIT, VIDIT, STETIT.

The better part of valour is diſcretion, in which better part I have ſaved my life.

SHAKESPEAR.

LONDON:

Printed for J. FULLER, in Blowbladder-ſtreet, Cheapſide. MDCCLIX.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

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Printed for J. Ryder, in Bloomsbury-street, Cheapside. MDCCLIX.

THE CONDUCT, &c.

PREVIOUS to the ſcrutiny of this gentleman's conduct, it cannot be amiſs to lay before the reader the plan of operations for this campaign, as it was laid down by the allies, and the King of Pruſſia, in February laſt.

Prince Ferdinand, to whom the care of the French was left, was to ſhut up Broglio's army on the hither ſide of

the Mayne; and, when that was effected, attack Marechal Contades's quarters, whoſe poſition ſeemed to promiſe ſucceſs in both, then return and compel the Dutch to declare themſelves; while the King ſhould be in Poland before-hand with the Ruſſians. Prince Henry to make a diverſion in Bohema, that might diſappoint Marſhal Daun in his project on Sileſia, and ſend detachments into Franconia, which ſhould be joined by others from Prince Ferdinand, to keep at bay the army of the Empire. To oppoſe any progreſs the Swedes might make, the garriſoned towns in Pomerania were thought ſufficient.

Could this plan have been executed, there would have been no reaſon to trouble the reader with a ſcrutiny on any-body's conduct, ſince its ſucceſs would have overſhadowed every defection of that kind; but the unfortunate action at Bergen diſconcerted the whole. Probably this gentleman might have no connexion with that affair, any further than his opinion in a council of war, &c. therefore it would be unjuſt to ſay, he is culpable, when perhaps not concerned;

for

for it is intended in the following ſheets to relate facts, and them impartially.

During this whole campaign, nothing but diſſention and heart-burnings ſubſiſted between the Britiſh and Hanoverian troops; nay, the Britons among themſelves could not agree. At every council of war they oppoſed each other; and, not unlikely, care was taken with regard to prepoſſeſſion before it was called; for it is notorious to all the world, that this was the caſe in the great commotion in Ireland, 1753; they never were unanimous in any one thing; and it has been aſſerted, but with what truth is not certainly known, That a noble lord did on the thirty-firſt of July laſt, declare to a company of gentlemen aſſembled on a temporary occaſion, a retreat was the moſt prudent ſtep they could take. The day following, ſays the annals of Europe, was famous for a battle fought in the plains near Minden, in which ſome regiments had the honour of fighting, and ſome of looking on. The cleareſt account they give of this action is the following.

Marechal Contades ſollicited permiſſion from his court to attack the allies, judging their poſition favoured him with a good opportunity. His requeſt being granted, he made all poſſible diſpatch to begin. The enemy was found in acceſſible intrenchments; and after the armies had been in ſight of each other a few hours, the two fronts, compoſed of infantry, were engaged. The Marechal's cavalry, which made the center line, were amazed to ſee their infantry cut to pieces by the Britiſh and Hanoverian troops, and attempted to recover the diſadvantage, when they themſelves received a repulſe. The cavalry of the allies were placed on the wings, and at this time received an order from the commander in chief, to charge the enemy's third line, in order to give the infantry ſome reſpite. But an officer, on the right, requeſted a written one, and refuſed to act without. This was an obſtacle purpoſely thrown into the general's way, to make him ſeem guilty of ſome unforeſight, by diverting his attention, and drawing him from the heat of action, where he happened at that time to be, to ſeek a conveniency to obey the punctilio. The general, fearing leſt ſomebody elſe ſhould in-

incommode him in the like manner, ſent the following meſſage to all his officers. "His Highneſs deſires and orders the "generals of his army, that, upon all "occaſions, when orders are brought to "them, by his aids du Camp, that they "be obeyed PUNCTUALLY, and without "DELAY.

But without the aſſiſtance of that corps a victory was obtained by the irreſiſtible impetuoſity of the Britiſh infantry, tho' not as complete as the Commander in chief could have wiſh'd, becauſe they were too much fatigued with the work of carnage to purſue, which was a duty neglected, through the obſtinacy of ſomebody.

The whole army took notice of the inactivity of the right wing. The private men glowed with rage to ſee every other corps in action, and they not permitted the honour to have a ſhare.

Prince Ferdinand, ordered it to be declared to the Marquis of Granby, after the action, "that he was fully perſuaded, "that if he had had the good fortune "to have placed Him at the head of

"the

"the cavalry of the right wing, his "preſence would have greatly contri- "buted to make the deciſion of the day "more complete and brilliant."

This is all the account we have of his perſonal proweſs. In Prince Ferdinand's orders the day after the action, publiſhed by authority, there is no mention of *him*: this very great omiſſion gives riſe to many conjectures. Prince Ferdinand, we ſee, thanks all his officers by *name*, ſave him who promiſed glory in arms, and England's Marlborough in future years.

Another very material inſtance of ſomething. The old Gentleman has waited on a great perſonage, requeſting that juſtice be executed on all delinquents; and ſhould any of the family fall under national cenſure; let the law take its courſe, ſaid he, ſuch perſons ſhall never any more be admitted into my preſence. This open diſintereſtedneſs, and noble reſolution, cannot be too much applauded.

Now,

Now, let us examine, whether the gentleman in queſtion ſeems culpable in his conduct on a late publick occaſion.

It is notorious to all the army, that part of the cavalry did not act, though ordered, and that the Britiſh infantry ſuffered through the want of a ſupport. Prince Ferdinand ſays, had the Marquis of Granby been at the head of the cavalry, the action would have been more complete, but does not ſay who was there. Thus it appears our troops have gained a victory contrary to the intention of ſomebody.

An error in judgment is out of the queſtion, no ſuch plea can be admitted, ſince we are told he received a peremptory command; in the obeying of which, he was no way anſwerable for the conſequences: his ſuperior muſt take that charge on himſelf. It is true, an officer may remonſtrate and expoſtulate with the general about the orders he receives; but if the latter perſiſts, the former ought immediately to obey, without further heſitation. A diſobedience in this point can be called by no other name than MUTINY. For the command of the

the troops that day was ſolely inveſted in *one* man, and *that* man ſhould be obeyed, ſince he is the regent of authority, and whoſe conduct muſt bear the niceſt inſpection on every error, and who alone muſt account for every proceeding. But thoſe who refuſe to obey his command, are inſurgents. Their diſobedience denotes DISAFFECTION, or, what is worſe, CORRUPTION. Strange! that any thing worthy theſe opprobrious terms ſhould creep into the breaſt of Britiſh heroes!

Mr. Byng, recent in our memory, ſuffered for an error in judgment; his cauſe was ſeverely handled by his enemies, and warmly defended by his friends.

Mr. Mordaunt, on whoſe trial a noble lord, in high command, ſat as preſident, was very honourably acquitted.

But as to the gentleman, on whom all eyes ſeem to be fixed, it is not known how the caſe will appear; but it is to be hoped the unanimous voice of the NATION will demand an enquiry, and not ſuffer it to ſleep in oblivion, as did that of the fruſtrated expeditions.

After

After conſidering his conduct in the light of inſurgency, let us now examine, how far it is concomitant with diſaffection.

From the ferments and commotions that have from time to time ſubſiſted in the councils in Germany, inferences may be drawn, that do not favour any adherence to loyalty.

It is by the laws of the Empire enacted, That thoſe who rebel againſt the Emperor, ſhall be put under the bann. An Emperor has but ſovereign authority, and ſometimes a general is inveſted with the ſame. To oppoſe his meaſures and breed ſedition among the troops, is ſomething ſimilar to mutiny, and is abſolutely diſaffection. He means no good to his King, no proſperity to his country, but the diſhonour of one, and the ruin of the other.

Can we conſider a man who is always tampering with clients, inſtructing emiſſaries, diſtributing money, oppoſing councils, retorting orders, and ſeeking exaltations, in any other light than diſaffection? Advocates indeed may conſtrue it

into other ſenſes, but their partiality is not to be regarded by a free people, who have a right to demand an inſpection. They are the ſupporters of the war; their money ought not to be embezzled, nor diſaffected perſons employed in the conducting of it. Generals are no more than their ſervants, entruſted with the execution of a commiſſion, into the management of which they have a right to enquire; nor ſhould this enquiry be made like that which happened a year or two ſince. The perſons entruſted with it ſhould be diſintereſted in the cauſe, unawed by power, and uninfluenced by party. Averſe to pecuniary conſiderations, and popular reflections; with a clearneſs and perſpicuity ſearch into this affair, the occaſion of our clamours, and let juſtice be executed after a rigorous and impartial enquiry.

When our moſt ſanguine hopes are raiſed, how mortifying is the diſappointment? This was Prince Ferdinand's caſe on the firſt inſtant; he expected much from ſomewhere, but ſomebody baffled him, not through ignorance, but either diſaffection, or downright obſtinacy.

In order to come at the bottom of this matter, perhaps ſome ſuch queries as the following might be of uſe, viz.

I. Whether his whole conduct, during the preſent campaign, has not always been oppoſite to the orders from the commander in chief?

II. Whether the evening, before action, the commander in chief, and he, had not ſome miſunderſtanding?

III. Whether at the time of action he did not ſhew ſome ſigns of fear?

IV. Did his whole conduct, in the time of action, in any meaſure contribute to the victory? did it not rather retard it? Could he not have given great aſſiſtance? And, if he could not, why?

V. Whether, after the time of action, he did not ſhew ſome ſigns of diſpleaſure? and why? whether he was not averſe to a purſuit?

If an affirmative to any of theſe queries can be proved, he is, in my opinion, a delinquent. But, ſuppoſing for argument's ſake, they cannot; let it be aſked, Why are all the general officers in the army thanked for their ſervices that day, except he? And, why did Prince Ferdinand declare, "That if the Marquis "of Granby had been at the head of "the cavalry, the victory would have "been more compleat?" Theſe are unanſwerable queſtions, without an affirmative to ſome of the former.

Now let us imagine the article COWARDICE brought in, How will this agree with his conduct?

When Prince Ferdinand ordered one of the corps on the right to attack, ſome officer demanded written orders: no doubt, imagining the Prince had not opportunity to give them him. When a man, in time of battle, ſeeks a ſkreen from fighting, it is always conſtrued into a ſign of fear. The affiancy needs no pointing out.

It

It is notorious to the whole army, one corps was *never* in action. It is likewiſe notorious to the whole army, it *might* have been in action. Can the reaſon be imputed to any thing but cowardice? The bird that can ſing, and will not ſing, ſays the proverb, muſt be made to ſing. But this corps could not be made to fight. It would not ſtir or march one inch of ground, without written orders. The trouble to oblige the capricious commander of this corps, was more than to direct the whole army. He pretended the punctilios of diſcipline, and kept aloof, rather ſtagnated, than with any ſigns of life. This was very diſagreeable to moſt of the officers and private men, who deſired nothing more than to be in the heat of action. But the lions were headed by a deer, who had been inſtructed by Reynard; and it is probable the deer thought his horns an inſufficient defence againſt the enemy; but it is certain that Reynard had forgot to p--ſs on his tail, or we ſhould not have ſeen all this. Perſonal courage is the moſt eſſential qualification to make a good general, and who that has read the accounts of the late action will not ſay, a commander in high rank did not ſhew the leaſt ſigns of it?

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The whole tenor of his conduct, in the time of action, makes large ſtrides to an aſſertion of this kind.

Should we fall into the torrent of popular clamour, and cite the ſpeeches made in coffee-houſes, the cabals in almoſt every company, the ſcurrility, indecency, and keen invectives of an exaſperated people, we might tire the patience of the reader, who cannot be unacquainted with a contagion that ſpreads from the nobleman to the cobler.

The love of life is the moſt tender paſſion of every ſpecies in the whole creation. But the man who goes to battle ſhould always be prepared to part with it; or wiſely ſtay at home in ſafety, if his conſcientious ſpirit cannot bear to expoſe itſelf in theſe imminent dangers. All men are not born with that reſolution, and noble majeſty of ſoul, which makes the general; their thoughts are leſs enterprifing, and ſome in time of danger even forget ſelf-defence.

But

But thoſe who ſollicit a command and inſidiouſly put on the title of valiant, purely for the ſake of lucre, are in my opinion, puniſhable with death; they betray their King, and ſacrifice the intereſt of their country to private avarice.

No plea can be urged in favour of an accuſation of this kind. There is no man but muſt be conſcious whether he has courage; and he who voluntarily goes to battle, ſetting ſollicitation aſide, can go with no other intention than to betray. Then is not death the traitor's juſt reward? But he who ſollicits the command, and betrays, ſhould, if poſſible, ſuffer a twofold puniſhment; for he is an officer without reſolution, conduct or knowlegde, and a man without veracity; and if we may believe hiſtory, always an ignorant, aſſuming, officious, fribbling pretender.

If theſe be attendants of real conſtitutional cowardice, who, that glows with the ſpirit of a man, would be ſeen with ſuch incendiary companions? would he not take every opportunity, that ſhould ſave him the hazard of expoſing them?

and

and every occaſion that ſhould hinder his name from being drawn in queſtion on ſo tender a point?

But alas! what will not the love of money do? Some men overlook character, rank, condition, fortune; and in a blaze, ſacrifice all to their god Mammon. We have ſeen generals of this ſtamp, ſacrificing the intereſt of their country to their own private intereſt, and miniſters who have even attempted to ſell the ſtate.

If to corruption any part of an officer's conduct is attributed, how muſt the odium appear among his relations and friends! Do not they fall into apprehenſions of being thought accomplices? If they are perſons of honour and integrity, the gall of being thought otherwiſe is mortifying. Vindications are ſometimes of no effect, nor will the public voice be ſtopt with any thing but ſacrifice.

We have often heard that generals have been bribed not to act; ſo it was induſtriouſly, but I believe falſely, reported of the late Mr. Byng. Such a report has been propagated on a ſimilar occaſion with-

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in theſe few days. For, ſay ſome people, if mutiny, diſaffection, and cowardice, be out of the queſtion, certainly corruption is the caſe.

An Iriſhman, perfectly well acquainted with the circumſtances of the year 1753, does not ſcruple to aſſert, there was ſome Engliſh money diſtributed in Ireland; and why not, continues he, ſome French money in Weſtphalia? Since the former was practiſed with ſo much ſucceſs in that kingdom, it was but natural to expect the ſame perſon could execute an homogeneous commiſſion in Weſtphalia.

The Hibernian does not ſeem to be much aſtray in his opinion: for, if we compare his ſentiment and ſomebody's conduct, lately very remarkable, we may conceive a ſimilitude.

The pains taken to oppoſe meaſures, which every honeſt man was warm in: Mammon commiſſioned on the eve of every council, to buy a voice: Rumours propogated to breed ſedition and diſſention; and theſe by ſuch methods as could not fail of ſucceſs: ſpeeches dreſſed in

all the flowers of rhetoric, and arguments advanced and ſupported with all the dogmatical obſtinacy of arrogance; ſeem to make the conjecture founded on truth.

With theſe have the weak been influenced and the ſtrong baffled. Faction and diſaffection joined to oppoſe honeſty and integrity; and corruption, and cowardice, to virtue and heroiſm. Many battles were fought with various ſucceſs, but neither gained any principal advantage till the 31ſt of July, when the graces were victorious, and the enemy's general made priſoner, who it is ſaid will neither be ranſomed nor exchanged; as it is ſuppoſed he was formerly in the ſervice, and lately deſerted to the enemy with all his corps.

If the ſtrange and at preſent unaccountable conduct on the 1ſt of Auguſt, cannot be attributed either to mutiny, diſaffection, or cowardice. I am ſtrongly infatuated to ſuſpect there has been ſome French gold in the caſe; and the finding the bottom of this affair will be attended with a great deal of expence and inconveniency; becauſe at this precious time, the officers will be called from where

where their preſence is moſt wanted. Our general will no doubt ſuffer an irretrievable loſs by it, he will be obliged to part with ſome men when their preſence might do him ſignal ſervice in the common cauſe.

This was the caſe on Mr. Byng's trial, when Mr. Weſt was detained, though he was, as he declared in court, under ſailing orders, to intercept a fleet of the enemy's ſhips from the Weſt-Indies, every day expected to make Cape Finiſterre. This precious opportunity was let ſlip, becauſe to be ſure, Mr. Byng's turn muſt be ſerved before the nation's; and ſome people will ſay, that Admiral Hawke's not doing more miſchief to the French men of War at the mouth of the river Charente, was owing to a ſimilar caſe, though of a later date.

But to ſpeak general, there is no need for inſtances to ſhew how prejudicial it is to call officers away from their ſtation, which they have been on probably ſix months, and muſt conſequently be acquainted with the poſition of the enemy and the land and water round them, better than thoſe ſubſtituted, who have that to

learn, and neceſſarily muſt retard the operations. Ten thouſand diſappointments the general may obſerve, that we do not ſee at this diſtance.

It is my humble opinion, that without ſuch a tedious and expenſive trial, it may be known whether the delinquent be culpable or not; means might be made uſe of to inſpect into his conduct *that* day without bringing over a regiment of officers, or the public diſſatisfied with the true cauſe of his fault; and *things* muſt be ſet in a very different light to that they appear at preſent in, before the populace will be made to ſwallow the terms of innocence, prudence, &c. or ſuffer the blame to be retorted on any body elſe.

When a man has through the whole tenor of his life proved himſelf no friend to his country, it is not reaſonable to imagine the people will reliſh ſuch vamped up ſtories in his favour, ſince the propagators are its enemies, hired to the taſk, either by French gold or French intereſt; they ſtrive to oppoſe public juſtice, and watch every opportunity to expoſe our weakeſt ſide to the enemy.

Let

Let it then be admoniſhed, and unanimouſly called for, a ſtrict and impartial enquiry, Why our cavalry was not in action, when it is notorious to the whole army it might? Let ſpeedy juſtice be executed on the delinquents, nor trouble the nation with tedious and expenſive trials; for, it is apprehended, cowardice or diſaffection, may be attributed to ſomebody.

One thing, hitherto unanſwered, may have been the occaſion of all this commotion. May he not have entertained a pique againſt the commander in chief? and through the favourite paſſion of gratifying his malice, have ſacrificed the intereſt of his country? It is well known this was the caſe in the memorable 1743, and many times before and ſince, and very ſtrongly probably now.

On what this pique was founded is not in my power to aſſert; but it is evident, from the diſagreement and animoſities among the troops, ſomething of this ſort did ſubſiſt. I am influenced to think ſomebody was deſirous of commanding in chief, that was not commiſſioned. But the friend and advocate

of

of the proteſtant religion, knew how dangerous it was to yield thoſe reins he held to the capricious opinionated youth. He ſaw the liberty of Europe at ſtake, and at the expence of his own life was determined to ſave her. Can we ſufficiently applaud this man for ſuch an eminent ſervice? He ſaw it dangerous, and muſt judge it little leſs than treacherous to yield the command to his petty attagoniſt. Whoſe mean low arts of attempt to eclipſe his glory, and fruſtrate his meaſures derived, in ſome ſenſe, from perſonal reſentment, were not ſufficient obſtacles to make him loſe ſight of the proteſtant cauſe. Does it not ſeem from the following incident his ambition aſpired to ſome higher command than that which he held?

When the gens d'arms and carbineers received a ſevere repulſe, they retired into a wood, which covered their flank, to form, an officer on the right of the allied army was requeſted to purſue and compleat their diſorder. He anſwered, "He would not endanger his corps in "an unknown road, without proper guides."

How

How could the road be unknown, when his enemy was before him? Could his troops be more endangered than the carbineers? Or, was it not his indeſpenſable duty to follow? —— But ſome men will not obey, becauſe ſome men command.

In what light can this conduct be looked upon? Suppoſe we ſhould judge it as mutiny, will not every man of candour be glad to find his defence make it quite foreign? As diſaffection, will not every Engliſhman be glad to find it falſe? To cowardice, no affiancy? To corruption, no probability? And to a pique, no veracity?

But from what has been ſaid, it is not intended to enflame the mind of the reader with enmity, or prepoſſeſs his opinion. It is but fair to let the delinquent be heard, and if he can remove theſe ſurmiſes, for they are nothing more, let his conduct be applauded; let his defence be made public, and remove theſe doubts; and let him again be ſent to prove his zeal and abilities either this, or the next campaign; that we may have reaſon from inſtances to ſay, all

theſe

the ſe conjectures were premature, and call the ſuppoſed enemy of his country, a friend.

But quitting this diſagreeable ſubject it behoves us to thank God for the victory obtained, and whether he did, either in council or field, contribute to it, ſhall not on our part be abſolutely determined. The victory bids fair for the beſt of conſequences to the common cauſe; then let the omniſcient Power be praiſed and lauded for his viſible aſſiſtance.

And next to him our thanks are due to Prince Ferdinand, who with a handful of men has been able to defeat a multitude; whoſe ſuperiority ſeemed to impend his diſtruction, and whoſe ferocity that of Hanover, Heſſe, &c.

Had our enemies obtained this victory, it is apparent the King of Pruſſia's weakeſt ſide would have been expoſed. Magdeburg lay open to their incurſions. The Swedes would have been put on a footing to act. Neither the projects of Daun nor Deux Ponts would have been fruſtrated, nor that of the Ruſſians, miſcarried.

Since

Since then it is apparent to God, and Prince Ferdinand, we owe this victory, ſo happy in its conſequences, let us ſend our grateful acknowledgments to the former, and princely rewards to the latter, who, as our enemies declare, performed wonders. At a time, ſay they, when he was on the eve of fighting a very ſuperior army, he had the boldneſs to detach 10,000 men to Minden. From this Manœvre it is evident the prince did not place his hope in numbers; he knew that if the God of battles was on his ſide, it would overbalance for the enemy's ſuperiority. Can theſe advantages and ſervices be attributed elſewhere? I hope the nameleſs gentleman in queſtion, will not preſume to blaſt the prince's laurels, or ſtrive to tear the power and praiſes ejaculated to the Omniſcience. His ſtrange and, at preſent, unaccounted for conduct that day, has contributed greatly to fully its luſtre. The enemy though defeated, will in another ſenſe triumph; will they not ſay we have gained a victory, and bring our officers to juſtice for obtaining it? What would our ferocity extend to the *entire* butchery of their whole army? Thanks to God for his mercy and goodneſs, ſince he preſerved us from thoſe furious ſavages.

Theſe and ſuch like expoſtulations will, no doubt, echo through all France. Will it not ſully our victory? the character of our troops? and the honour of our miniſters?

What then can be done to thoſe who bring this diſgrace on their country? In what light can they be conſidered? Can their friends ſkreen them from popular clamour, or their actions from natural juſtice; and will this be executed without bringing on ourſelves an odium from the enemy?

As it is but natural that one friend ſhould aſſiſt another. In ſuch a light let us conſider our enemy's odium; they eſpouſe the intereſt perhaps of their dependant, their advocate and aſſiſtant, or through a charity for their friend, endeavour to conceal his other foibles, ſuppoſe *cowardice*, and the heads already conſidered.

No man was perhaps, ever involved in more difficulties and perplexities, nor no man with ſuch dexterity was able to extricate himſelf. Then let us throw aſide the clamour of our enemies, and

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proceed to a ſtrict and impartial enquiry, obſerving his admirable craft when in theſe troubles, and like the felon who eſcaped from his place of confinement when caught, only confine the cloſer; ſince their expoſtulations only tend to retard its progreſs, and in ſome meaſure the vindications of his domeſtic friends, to breed diſſention among the people, that they may not be unanimous in that very juſt demand. Some men would pretend to throw the blame of inactivity on Prince Ferdinand, but I hope, in the beginning I have ſufficiently cleared him of that. His conduct evidently appears; he deſired nothing more than that every corps in his whole army ſhould be in action, in order that victory, when ſhe declared in his favour, ſhould make the deciſion final.

Can human foreſight divine, if that corps of cavalry had been in action, ſucceſs would have been more complete? Does it not ſeem probable that it would? and would not ſuch a number of men, had they fought, have greatly contributed to make the overthrow more total? the cauſe of their inactivity, as idle ſpectators, is unaccountable. But I hope ob-

vious to every underſtanding, of ſignal ſervice to one party, and very prejudicial to the other, and in my opinion inſtigated by no good principle to the Proteſtant cauſe, but purely intended to mortify ſome of its defenders.

That ſome pretended friends of this intereſt never have been of ſervice to their country, I hope, needs no pointing out. Let us only conſider the ſeries of ſervices, ſome gentlemen have been employed in, how they have been ſuffered to embezzle, the public treaſure and honour to their own ridiculous projects.

In the year 17**, antiquaries fix the æra, for a terrible commotion beyond the ſeas; they ſay bribery, and every other kind of corruption, together with the ſelling of poſts, penſions, &c. were as openly practiſed as the manufactring of bills upon change.

The year 17** was famous for elections for M——s to ſerve in P——t, but more ſo for the method taken in converting the nomination.

About the year 17** there were three factions, and each of theſe factions had ſomething of the two grand diviſions in

the late reigns. The practice of gaming was again revived and L***s were ſeen walking the public ſtreets arm in arm, with notorious ſharpers.

Towards the end of this year a new kind of amuſement was introduced, called encampments, when ſome men got commiſſions and ſome men places. About this time alſo a tumult aroſe concerning the diſcipline of the people, who ſhould be called a M——a. Both H——s of P——t were thrown into the greateſt conſternation.

In the year 17** an E—p—n was ſet on foot to R—h—t, it went, and after making a parade ſeveral days on the high ſeas, came back, but the meſſengers forgot to deliver their meſſage. This engroſſed the attention of the whole n——n, they could not be perſuaded that memory is fallible. Philoſophers were appointed to decide their important controverſy. Their opinions were divided. Another appointment was made; when it was unanimouſly agreed, agreeable to the doctrine of *Vento*, That the organs of memory by a ſudden guſt of wind may be *infractuated*.

It was alſo unanimouſly reſolved at the ſame appointment, That next to ſelf-examination, nothing was ſo diſagreeable as the ſitting to examine the imperfections of thoſe whoſe perfections had ſhewn themſelves on many public occaſions, and were, as it was then thought, an over-balance for any inſinuation of that kind.

It was likewiſe apprehended, that the organs of memory might be *infatuated* by the trouble and fatigue of attending councils. And, the various reports it was obliged to retain, would conſequently incommode thoſe it ſwallowed at firſt, without an expulſion of which there would not be ſpace for the latter, and the necary points of punctilio.

It appearing that man is a fallible creature, and cannot bear the burden of too much buſineſs; it is unanimouſly reſolved, leſt our own memories ſhould fail us, to excuſe the imperfections of others; who in gratitude returned their thanks for ſuch candour and indulgence, and promiſed a return of the ſame f——r on any future occaſion.

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The ſame year was likewiſe famous for *turning out* and *in*, a new maxim derived from a new way of fighting, as hiſtorians ſay, practiſed on the 20th of May, of the preceding year; for ſome men by an admirable dexterity always turned in, but thoſe that were bunglers always turned out. Theſe diviſions are not yet ſubſided, nor is it believed they ever will, while *ſome* men are permitted to inflame the minds of the people with artful reports and inſinuating ſtories. All the good friends of Old E——d, are by perſons of this faction, ſet down as e—m—s. But popularity knows the contrary, he can trace their ſteps, and oftentimes ſee where the journey will terminate.

The year 17** was very remarkable, for many cabals; to the effect, whether it was proper to unite the intereſts of G—— B——, and H——. It was at length carried in the affirmative, and our good neighbours the French thought it the ſame thing to attack H——, as G—— B——, ſince the intereſts were ſynonymous, and the inconveniency not hazardous. Beſides it was more difficult for us to defend it. They proceeded on the enterpirze,

terprize, and we to repel force by force. They were beat by ſome men who had the cauſe at heart. But ſome who had not, were content to look on.

The people of B——d thought the beating of the French in H——— was the ſame as in G——— B———, and began to quarrel about the cauſe why all the troops did not fight. Some lay the blame on the ſecond in command,—others on the firſt.—They all ſhake their heads—ſhrug their ſhoulders—inſiſt upon an enquiry—talk inceſſantly about it—drink healths—and all ends in nothing,——*This appears very ſtrange, but ſuch is the infatuation of the times!*

Suppoſe the gentleman in queſtion ſhould prove a delinquent of juſtice, and be ſacrificed to the public reſentment; will it not be ſaid, it is done for an example to others? There has been one already, ſeveral diſgraced, and many have thrown up their commiſſions. Strange! that obſtinacy and inſurgency, ſhould ſtill be among the advocates of their country: That neither the love of life nor fear of death is able to root out the implanted evil! Can neither prudence guide

guide their conduct, nor emulation give them courage? Can neither public welfare be found in their councils, nor private glory in their actions? Can neither neceſſity plead, nor virtue ſpur. But muſt the Hydra inſtigate all their actions, and petulence and virulence ſtamp on them, the marks of cowardice and diſaffection?

Strange that England who has boaſted the giving birth to Edwards, Henrys, Marlboroughs, Blakes and Ruſſels, ſhould be thus degenerated!——Yet, we have our friends, and the glorious 1758, will be tranſmitted to poſterity to the diſgrace of our domeſtic and foreign enemies. Nor let the preſent year be loaded with infamy, we have committed no blunders to deſerve that malignant appellation; and if one, two, or three men ſhould have committed errors, let not thoſe errors become infectious, nor we ſo arrogant to brand a noble family, or the people of a whole kingdom, for the miſconduct of a relation to one, or a native of the other.

I hope this method of conveying ſentiments is unworthy the generoſity, freedom and candour of a Briton. Let us patiently wait, and impartially conſider; nor raſhly judge before we are informed. Let us ſtrive to ſtem the impetuoſity of popular clangor, and opinions without premiditation. And, if it ſhould be found he is culpable, let corporal puniſhment be inflicted, as the crime may deſerve; but let us, like Chriſtians, ſympathize in his misfortune.

FINIS.

TO THE

READER.

IT is hoped, what has been advanced in the preceding ſheets, will not prepoſſeſs his mind, nor excite the ſentiment of prejudice againſt the ſuppoſed N—b—m—n.

This pamphlet is written in expectation of an anſwer; where we hope he, or his advocate will be able to vindicate every charge upon his conduct; which will be more agreeable to us, than the reciting of popular clamour.

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